

## Message Text

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62

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 132102Z AUG 76 ZFF-4

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NY

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 21002

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, US, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: VISIT OF FSO TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON:

CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING ARE GENERAL PRESS GUIDELINES WHICH WE WILL EMPLOY IF QUESTIONS ARE RAISED ABOUT OUR SENDING AN FSO TEMPORARILY TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON.

2. OWING TO THE SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANON, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR OUR PERSONNEL IN OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT TO GET IN TOUCH DIRECTLY WITH MANY OF THE LEADERS AND INFLUENTIAL PERSONALITIES LIVING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PRESENT CONFRONTATION LINE IN BEIRUT. IT WILL BE RECALLED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT AMBASSADOR MELOY, COUNSELOR WARING AND THEIR DRIVER WERE ASSASSINATED WHILE TRYING TO  
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CROSS THE CONFRONTATION LINE TO CALL IN PRESIDENT-ELECT

SARKIS AND OTHER PERSONS LIVING IN EAST BEIRUT.

3. FOR THIS REASON, EDWARD P. DJEREJIAN, A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WITH EXPERIENCE IN LEBANON, WILL BE SPENDING ABOUT A WEEK IN THIS AREA, WHICH CANNOT NOW BE REACHED BY OUR PERSONNEL IN THE EMBASSY, IN ORDER TO DISCUSS WITH KEY LEBANESE PERSONALITIES THERE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE LEBANESE SCENE AND TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS.

4. MR. DJEREJIAN HAD BRIEF CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON BEFORE PROCEEDING TO LEBANON TO AUGMENT, ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, THE ACTIVITY OF OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT. WE HOPE THAT THE SECURITY CONDITIONS IN LEBANON WILL SOON IMPROVE TO THE POINT WHERE MORE REGULAR CONTACT BETWEEN THE PERSONNEL OF OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT AND ALL THE LEBANESE PARTIES WILL AGAIN BE POSSIBLE. WE MAY BE SENDING AN OFFICER THERE AGAIN FROM TIME TO TIME IF SECURITY CONDITIONS SO DICTATE.

5. (IF ASKED) SENDING AN OFFICER TEMPORARILY TO A PART OF LEBANON WHICH CANNOT NOW BE REACHED BY OUR EMBASSY PERSONNEL DOES NOT IMPLY ANY POLICY CHANGE AND IS BEING DONE FOR PURELY PRACTICAL REASONS. THE U.S. REMAINS OPPOSED TO PARTITION OR DE FACTO PARTITION AS A SOLUTION TO THE LEBANESE TRAGEDY. WE FIRMLY SUPPORT LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY, ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ITS NATIONAL COHESION AND UNITY.

6. (IF PRESSED FOR FURTHER DETAILS): MR. DJEREJIAN IS PRESENTLY CONSUL GENERAL IN BORDEAUX, FRANCE. HE WENT INTO JOUNIEH, LEBANON BY THE REGULAR COMMERCIAL BOAT SERVICE FROM CYPRUS. OUR PRESENT PLANNING IS THAT, ON COMPLETING HIS VISIT TO LEBANON, HE WILL PROCEED PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON TO DELIVER HIS REPORT AND WILL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE RETURN TO BORDEAUX.

7. (IF PRESSED AS TO WHETHER DJEREJIAN'S POSSIBLY SEEING CHAMOUN CONSTITUTES USG RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTROVERSIAL APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER): MR. CHAMOUN IS A PROMINENT CHRISTIAN LEADER AND A FORMER PRESIDENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM REGULARLY. WHETHER HE HOLDS A CABINET POSITION IS NOT THE POINT; WE WOULD HAVE WANTED DJEREJIAN TO SEE CHAMOUN IN ANY EVENT.

8. AFTER RPT AFTER DJEREJIAN HAS ARRIVED IN JOUNIEH, EMBASSY BEIRUT IS AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON THE FOREGOING GUIDANCE IN ANSWERING

INQUIRIES FROM THE PRESS AS WELL AS  
FROM INTERESTED LEBANESE. OTHER ACTION AND INFO POSTS  
MAY ALSO USE THIS GUIDANCE, BUT ONLY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH  
HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, REFERRING ALL PRESS QUERIES  
TO WASHINGTON.  
KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECTO, CHRISTIANS, VISITS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SECTO21002  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760312-0649  
**From:** SECRETARY NEW YORK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT OF FSO TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, OVIP, LE, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (DJEREJIAN, EDWARD P)  
**To:** BEIRUT DAMASCUS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006